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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Great Redeemer, guide our law-makers along the best path to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. May they submit to Your wisdom and providential leading, believing that You will supply all of their needs. Remind them that Your unfailing love accompanies those who put their trust in You.

Lord, give our Senators an attitude of reverential awe that will keep them from evil and inspire them to rejoice and be glad as they strive to live lives of purity and obedience.

And, Lord, as we remember Pearl Harbor on this December 7, thank You for Your loving and prevailing providence. May we show our gratitude by facing the future without fear.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNIZING IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to visit with my colleagues about something that hasn't happened in

Iowa for over 100 years. Over the weekend, the Iowa State football team completed their regular season play. The Cyclones are having a noteworthy season. They secured the first place rank in the Big 12 Conference's regular season after winning five consecutive conference games and eight overall conference wins this season.

The good news doesn't stop there for the Iowa State football program. The Cyclones finished first place in league play, for the first time since 1912, when they won the Missouri Valley Conference. This has earned the Cyclones their well-deserved spot in the Big 12 title game on December 19, the first ever Big 12 championship appearance in Iowa State University's history.

I want to applaud the Cyclones for their historic season. So many fans, including me, will be rooting them on for the Big 12 championship game.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, speaking both as a Senator from Vermont and as vice chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am speaking with concern about what has been happening in the Senate.

It has been 321 days since the first COVID-19 case was reported in the United States—321 days. It has been 282 days since the first COVID-19 death was reported in the United States.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the unemployment rate in November was 6.7 percent, nearly double the rate in November of last year. Hundreds of thousands of small businesses across the country have closed permanently, all due to COVID.

As of today, there are more than 14,800,000 reported cases of COVID-19 in the United States. To put that in perspective, that is 1 million more than just a week ago. More than 282,000 Americans have died, and it has been 256 days since the Senate passed the CARES Act—256 days since the Senate acted in a comprehensive, meaningful way to address the real and mounting concerns and needs of our constituents.

My State of Vermont is like everywhere else. Healthcare workers, caregivers, business owners, employees, teachers, and students are all in need of support during these difficult and uncertain times.

We have families wrestling with heightened food insecurity. People for the first time in their lives cannot feed their children and they cannot feed themselves. They have the threat of eviction from their homes hanging over them.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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